In re Appln. Of: Steve Searby
Application No.: 10/680,059

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-4, 17 and 24 and 25, without prejudice, and amend claims 5-9, 11, 13, 16, and 18 as indicated below, so that after entry of the amendment the claims will read as follows:

(Claims 1 – 4 cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) ~~The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 4, wherein~~

An underground cable laying apparatus, comprising:

a mounting yoke;

a pair of angularly displaced turf slicing wheels rotatably coupled to the mounting yoke, the turf slicing wheels defining a forward contact area therebetween, and being angularly displaced relative to one another along both a horizontal and a vertical axis of the mounting yoke;

a cable guide tube positioned aft of the forward contact area of the turf slicing wheels, the cable guide tube having a cable inlet and a cable outlet;

a turf closure housing pivotally coupled relative to the mounting yoke;

a pair of angularly positioned turf closing wheels rotatably coupled to the turf closure housing; and

a pair of closure assembly mounting arms fixably coupled to the mounting yoke;

wherein the turf closure housing is pivotally coupled to the closure assembly mounting arms, and the turf closure housing includes at least one positioning member adapted to contact at least one of the closure assembly mounting arms to limit pivotal travel of the turf closure housing in at least one direction.

6. (Currently amended) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11 ~~1~~, further comprising a feed tube support extension member coupled to the cable guide tube in proximity to the cable outlet.

7. (Currently amended)The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11 ~~1~~, further comprising a cable guide coupled to the cable guide tube and displaced from the cable inlet to aid in guiding cable into the cable inlet.

8. (Currently amended) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11 ~~1~~, wherein the cable guide tube is curved from the cable inlet to the cable outlet.

9. (Currently amended) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 5 ~~3~~, further comprising a turf follower spring coupled between the mounting yoke and the turf closure housing.

10. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a spring tension nut positioned to vary a bias force supplied by the turf follower spring.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising~~

An underground cable laying apparatus, comprising:

a mounting yoke;

a pair of angularly displaced turf slicing wheels rotatably coupled to the mounting yoke, the turf slicing wheels defining a forward contact area therebetween;

a cable guide tube positioned aft of the forward contact area of the turf slicing wheels, the cable guide tube having a cable inlet and a cable outlet; and

a cable feed guide mechanism positioned in proximity to the cable outlet, ~~anterior to~~ aft of the cable guide tube.

12. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cable feed guide mechanism is a guide wheel having a groove around an outer periphery thereof sized to accommodate the cable to be laid. .

13. (Currently Amended) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a guide wheel cleaning mechanism operably connected to the guide wheel to remove foreign debris therefrom.

14. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 13, wherein the guide wheel cleaning mechanism comprises a groove cleaning rod positioned within the groove of the guide wheel.

15. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 14, wherein the guide wheel cleaning mechanism further comprises wheel edge scrapers positioned along either side of the guide wheel.

16. (Currently amended) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11 ~~1~~, wherein the mounting yoke includes at least one mounting receptacle.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 17, further comprising a turf closure assembly operably coupled to the mounting yoke and positioned relative to the pair of turf slicing wheels to close the slit in the turf opened thereby ~~anterior~~ aft of the cable outlet.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the turf closure assembly comprises a pair of turf closing wheels angularly positioned relative to one another and laterally displaced from one another a distance greater than a lateral spacing at a trailing edge of the pair of turf slicing wheels.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising~~

An apparatus for laying cable under turf without leaving a visibly obvious scar in the turf, comprising:

a mounting yoke having at least one mounting receptacle defined therein;

a pair of turf slicing wheels rotatably mounted on the mounting yoke, the turf slicing wheels being positioned in a diverging relationship to one another and defining a forward contact area therebetween for opening a slit in the turf when the pair of turf slicing wheels is pulled therethrough;

a cable feed tube positioned between the pair of turf slicing wheels and terminating in a cable outlet positioned to guide the cable into the slit opened by the pair of turf slicing wheels; and

a cable feed guide mechanism positioned ~~anterior~~ aft of and vertically downward of the cable outlet relative to a surface of the turf to position the cable within the slit in the turf and to protect an outer surface of the cable from scraping.

21. (Previously presented) A method of laying cable under a lawn, comprising the steps of:

lowering a pair of turf slicing wheels defining a forward contact area therebetween into the lawn;

moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn to open a slit therein;

guiding cable into the slit in the lawn; and

closing the slit after the cable has been positioned therein.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn comprises the step of moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn such that the pair of turf slicing wheels rotate.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of watering the lawn prior to the steps of lowering, moving, guiding, and closing.

(Claims 24 and 25 cancelled).